Under the Scheme of Grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of working children. Over 70 projects are currently under implementation under the Scheme of grant-in-aid.

The above Schemes are continuing in the year 2000-2001 also.

Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour.

Vacant posts of SC/ST categories in Ministry of Labour

3607. SHRI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in his Ministry for the last five years and till date;

(b) the action being taken to fill them up; and

(c) the time by which the said posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

National Wage Policy for Bidi Labourers

3608. MISS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will make a National Policy for Bidi Labourers so that they may get equal wages all over the country;

(b) whether Government will take necessary steps to ensure that the Bidi magnates do not shift their Bidi manufacturing units to States having lower wages for Bidi making thereby rendering lakhs of bidi labourers without employment and on the verge of starvation in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) How much allocation was made available in 1999-2000 to construct residential accommodation for Bidi labourers in Mahdya Pradesh?